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Civics

Bush v. Gore

In the year 2000, the United States underwent arguably the most complicated, and closest presidential election in the history of the democratic country. There was heavy controversy over whether or not George W. Bush should have actually beat Al Gore in the election. All of the country kept an eye on the state of Florida, as their Supreme Court, along with the Federal Supreme Court, tried to figure out if George W. Bush’s win was legitimate. Total state votes came down to an astonishing 537 vote differential between the two candidates.

On November 7, 2010, Texas Governor George W. Bush , and Vice President Al Gore both waited as presidential candidates, knowing one of the two would emerge as the new American President the next day. This however, was not the case at all. When millions of Americans went to bed that election night, they were under the impression Al Gore had won the election, when they woke up however, they were informed George W. Bush had won.

It all came down to the state of Florida, where those last few elector votes became critical. With the millions of voters in Florida, it almost seems impossible that Bush had only one by 537 votes. To fuel that fire, there were many complaints of ballot problems that could have actually changed the election completely. Al Gore’s officials pushed for the state Supreme Court to call for a recount, while Bush’s officials were obviously happy with the results. With strict recount deadline laws, the state quickly demanded the votes be recounted.

When this happened, Bush and his officials then took the controversy to the United States Supreme Court. Here, there was a 5-4 count in George’s favor. The United States Supreme Court claimed that the Florida Supreme Court violated the 14th amendment by ordering the recount. The U.S Supreme Court decided they couldn’t recount the votes by the strict deadline anyway. Thus, Al Gore and the Florida Supreme Court were overruled.

It’s difficult to believe that the President of the United States very well may have been decided by one vote in the United States Supreme Court. If that one judge would have just voted in favor of Gore, then maybe the state-wide recount would’ve proved Gore to be President. This is easily the most controversial Presidential election, and is right up there in most controversial Supreme Court decision in the history of the United States of America.